

# JACK

University of Illinois CU  
Japanese Animation Club  
Late Summer Newsletter



## Introduction from the President

Konichiwa! I'm Dave Deitrich, president of the Japanese Anime Club, or **JACK** for short. We are the official club for Japanese animation at the University of Illinois. We meet every Saturday at 1 PM in 141 Loomis Lab for a 3 to 4 hour showing of Japanese animation, both new shows and old favorites. We also publish a newsletter every semester containing synopses, fan art, stories, and anything else the club collects over the semester. And we are always trying to get more people on campus to experience anime (Japanese animation), so that everyone can enjoy this unique form of entertainment.

This year we are aggressively pursuing many new ideas and projects for the club, and the newsletter you are holding is actually the first result of those projects. This is the first year we've had a booth at Quad Day, and we've made up a special introductory edition of the newsletter to help you get an idea of what our club is all about. I hope you like it, and maybe some of you will decide to help write our next newsletter, which will be published about halfway into the semester.

Our treasurer, John Yoon, has also arranged a deal with AnimEigo to show the recently released "**Vampire Princess Miyu**" at a special "movie night" for the express purpose of recruiting new members and generating interest in anime. This semester's movie night will be on *Wednesday, August 27th at 7 PM in 141 Loomis Lab*. Be there, and bring all of your friends; it's sure to be a great night!

Many of you have expressed an interest in seeing more full-length movies, and the officers of **JACK** have heard you. Therefore, we are going to make a concentrated effort to show more movies and complete sagas for your enjoyment. Our first movie will be "**Macross: Do You Remember Love**," the 2-hour feature film based on the series that became Robotech. Action, adventure, beautiful animation, and an excellent soundtrack make this movie a classic example of anime. Anyone who has ever seen Robotech will NOT want to miss it! We will be showing "**Macross: Do You Remember Love**" at our second meeting of the semester, on *Saturday, September 5th at 1 PM*. This movie will be subtitled in English for your enjoyment.

Please enjoy this newsletter, and I hope you will decide to become a regular member of our club. If you have any questions, or just want to "talk anime," feel free to drop by before or after one of the meetings, or give me a call at the number below. Our first meeting of the semester will be *AUGUST 29TH* (this Saturday) at *1 PM in 141 LOOMIS LAB*. See you there!

*Dave Deitrich*

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# A Quick Guide to Anime and Anime Resources in the Champaign-Urbana Area

By Dave Deitrich

with LOTS of material taken from the  
"Anime Primer" maintained by Bruce Carlson

This article is primarily intended for those of you who are new to Anime ("Japanese Cartoons"), and are looking for some suggestions of what to watch and where to go to get some of the programs we show. I've broken this article down into two parts: a listing of common anime shows and a quick personal review of each, and a listing of various resources for anime-enthusiasts in the University of Illinois area.

## PART 1: WHAT TO WATCH

First of all, anime is a *MEDIUM* of entertainment, not a type or genre. Not all anime deals with science fiction or giant robots, like "Robotech" or "Voltron," although that is undeniably a large and popular type of anime. Anime stories and source material are as widely varied as American prime-time television. There is "action" anime, "horror" anime, "love story" anime, and just about everything else in between. Although most anime is available only in Japanese, many shows are available dubbed in English or with English subtitles. Also, English scripts for various anime shows are also widely available through the Internet (more on that later).

What anime will interest you depends a lot on your personal tastes. It would take a book several dozen times the size of this newsletter to completely list and review all the anime currently available, so instead I've listed a few of the more popular examples of anime, with a quick review of each. Keep in mind that this is a broad overview attempting to touch on most of the major genres in anime, and is by no means a complete list.

Titles marked with **(R)** are available for rental at "*That's Rentertainment*," a video rental store located on campus (also more on this later).

**APPLESEED: (R)** Post-apocalypse sci-fi story about a police officer and her cyborg friend who confront a conspiracy in the paradise city of Olympus, one of the last centers of civilization on Earth. This anime, like many others, is based on a manga (comic book) that was popular in Japan. Available with English subtitles.

**AKIRA: (R)** Metaphysical cyberpunk story about a bunch of bikers who accidentally stumble on the Army's efforts to create the next step in human evolution. The animation quality is outstanding, but in my opinion the plot is slow and the story gets bogged down by lengthy explanations. An English-dubbed version is available.

**BLACK MAGIC M66: (R)** A well done "Terminator" ripoff about a news reporter who must stop a robot assassin from killing its target: the granddaughter of the robot's designer! Fast-paced action with a very enjoyable (if unoriginal) story. Available with English subtitles.

**BUBBLEGUM CRISIS: (R)** An extremely popular cyberpunk series set in the city of Megatokyo in the year 2032. The Knight Sabers, an all-female team of mercenaries battle against Genom, a corrupt megacorporation bent on taking over the world with their "boomers" (combat robots). Excellent artwork, incredible action and a great soundtrack make up for (in my opinion) a mediocre story line. Currently 8 episodes are available, all with English subtitles.

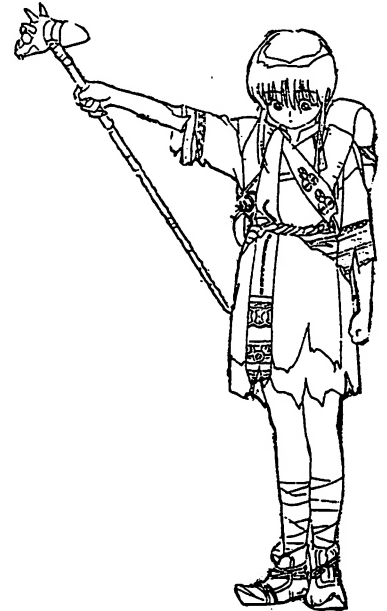
**BUBBLEGUM CRASH: (R)** The three-part conclusion the the Bubblegum Crisis saga. Nowhere near the quality of the original, but if you enjoyed Bubblegum Crisis you might want to check it out. All three episodes available with English subtitles.

**CITY HUNTER:** Action-comedy about a private eye who is a cross between Clint Eastwood and Dan Fielding from Night Court. This anime will be incredibly hilarious and entertaining to you the first time you see it, but after 4 or 5 episodes the repetitive story line gets old. Definitely worth watching once or twice, though!

**DIRTY PAIR:** Perhaps the most well-known example of anime ever made. This science-fiction action-adventure-comedy centers around two cute female agents who will solve any problem for you, for a price. Code-named "Lovely Angels," the duo are better known as the "Dirty Pair" because whatever the problem, their cure is sure to be worse. The best example of Dirty Pair would be Project E.D.E.N., the 90-minute movie that won the "best animation" award in 1987. There are rumors that this series will be dubbed in English by Streamline in the near future.

**DOMINION: (R)** A rather silly action-comedy parody about law enforcement in a very punk future. Like the Dirty Pair, the police tend to cause more damage than the criminals they're trying to catch. Now available subtitled from US Renditions.

**FIST OF THE NORTH STAR (a.k.a. HOKUTO NO KEN):** A VERY bloody post-apocalyptic martial arts sword & sorcery fantasy that must be seen to be believed. "Conan" meets "The Road Warrior" in this story of a man out to get revenge for his betrayal and save the woman he loves. An English-dubbed version will soon be released by Streamline pictures.



**GUNDAM: \*THE\*** giant robot combat series. A space opera saga of epic proportions about a war for liberty in the near future. Earth now has orbiting space colonies, and the colonies want independence from terran rule. The main weapon of this war is the mobile suit (a human shaped robot with a pilot in the torso), and the best mobile suit in existence is the Gundam. About a dozen series have been produced, but I recommend "Gundam 0080: War in the Pocket," "Gundam 0083: Stardust Memory," or the movie "Gundam: Char's Counterattack." My personal favorite anime.

**ICZER-1:** A three-part science-fiction/horror story involving hideous monsters from space, cute but lethal girls, and two giant robots. Though meant to be taken only semi-seriously, the show has some great slime-monsters that'll make your skin crawl.

**LAPUTA, CASTLE IN THE SKY:** A fantasy adventure story by children's film-maker Miyazaki, featuring technology Jules Verne would approve. Two kids flee pirates, the army, and other parties in a race to find the legendary flying city of Laputa. Good soundtrack, too.

**LODOSS WAR:** A 13-part fantasy series that looks like it could have come directly from a Dungeons & Dragons adventure module. A party of adventurers (the usual fighter, cleric, mage, dwarf, elf, and thief) attempt to find the secret of the mysterious island of Lodoss, where the gods themselves died in a fierce battle. Excellent artwork and a very enjoyable story, not to mention great action sequences (in my opinion).

**LUPIN III:** A semi-modern series of stories about a stylish thief with a heart of gold and his gang. Good examples of Lupin include "Castle Cagliostro" and "Plot of the Fuma Clan", two of the most action-packed and entertaining anime around. Fan-subtitled versions exist, and Streamline has released an English-dub version for theatres.

**MACROSS: DO YOU REMEMBER LOVE:** An incredible feature-film version of the science-fiction "Macross" TV series, which became part of the "Robotech" saga in the United States. This film has MUCH better artwork than the series, and is a must see for anyone who has ever seen "Robotech."

**MAISON IKKOKU:** A contemporary romantic comedy about odd assortment of people sharing a boarding house. Many people like it, though I fail to see it's appeal.

**MEGAZONE 23:** A Science Fiction story about a bunch of bikers who discover that their "city" is in fact a giant spaceship orbiting the Earth, and furthermore, is under attack by hostile aliens. Nice artwork and a good rock soundtrack, but gets bogged down with dialog at times.

**MIDNIGHT EYE GOKU:** Cyberpunk story about a private investigator named Goku who has a computerized eye that can interface with any other computer at will, and an expanding baton that allows him to impale adversaries and vault over skyscrapers. Stylish animation with adult themes.

**NADIA (SECRET OF BLUE WATER): (R)** Recent 39-part TV series about a girl with a mysterious past and a fantastic amulet (Blue Water), and a young inventor who accompanies her. Lots of adventure that stretches from Paris to Africa, Antarctica, Atlantis, and finally even into outer space! Lots of stuff straight out of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." Very well done, in my opinion. The first episode is available in English from Streamline.

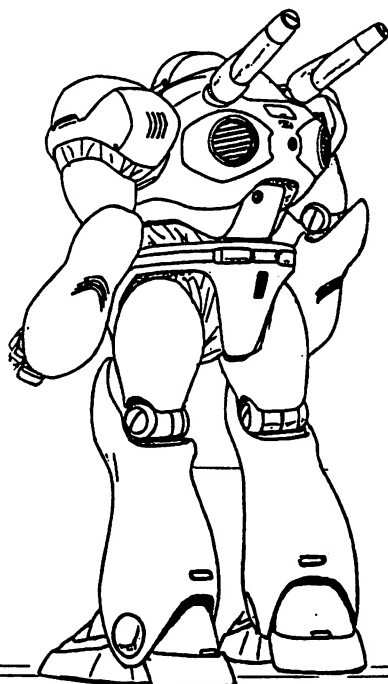
**ORANGE ROAD:** Contemporary romantic comedy where high school students work out their love triangles and try to grow up, even though some of them have ESP "powers". A kindly, comic look at the youth experience in Japan. Relatively easy to understand, and subtitled episodes are available from almost everyone.

**PATLABOR:** Near-future police story about police officers who use mecha to combat criminals. This newsletter contains an extended article on the background of the series. Recommended.

**PROJECT A-KO: (R)** Well-done spoof of just about every anime series. The main story centers around three high-school girls with super-powers and mecha and bad cooking. Very, very funny, or very very silly, depending on if you get the jokes. The first movie is available subtitled in English from US Manga Corp.

**RANMA 1/2:** Action-comedy about a boy with a curse that turns him into a girl whenever s/he gets wet. (Could be worse; his dad gets turned into a Panda, and I won't even mention the little piglet or the cat.). Lots of slapstick with an occasional serious or touching story. Fan-subtitled versions exist, but are very hard to find these days.

**SOL BIANCA:** Space opera series about five pirate women and their alien spaceship. Sort of a cross between "Bubblegum Crisis" and "Blake's 7". Nice artwork and nifty mecha designs, with an enjoyable action-packed story line.



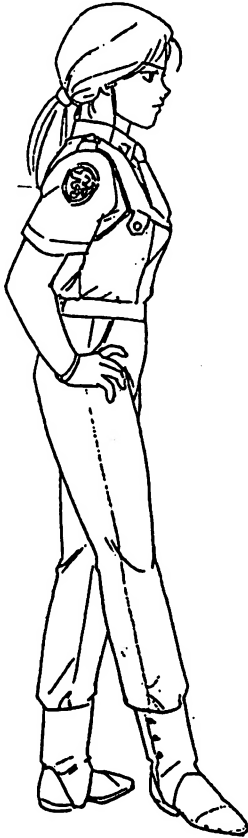
**URUSEI YATSURA:** (translates as something like "Noisy Aliens", I'm told) Slapstick screwball comedy about Lum, the flying electro-demon girl from space, Ataru, the earth boy she wants, and a host of other crazy characters. Out-and-out madness that a lot of people seem to enjoy. Twelve episodes and two movies are planned for release in subtitled format by AnimEigo in the near future, with possibly more on the horizon.

**VAMPIRE HUNTER 'D': (R)** Science-fiction/Horror about Earth 30,000 years in the future. Mutants roam the countryside, and a vampire has set up shop in an abandoned castle. The vampire's female victim sends for 'D', a professional vampire-hunter, to save her. Enjoyable story. Available dubbed in English by Streamline.

**VAMPIRE PRINCESS MIYU: (R)** A supernatural horror series about a contemporary "vampire" who stalks wayward demons loose on Earth and sends them back to Darkness. Only problem is that Miyu (the vampire) is pursued by a persistent exorcist who is not as enthused about unlife as she is. Quiet, moody chiller, hopeless to follow without understanding the dialog. Available subtitled from AnimEigo.



**WINDARIA: (R)** A fantasy story of two kingdoms at war, and how the war affects two pairs of lovers; one peasant, one royal. A tragedy that's well worth watching, in my opinion. Nice music, too. Available dubbed in English from Streamline.



## PART 2: WHERE TO GO

All right. You're probably reading this list and saying "Great. Now where do I go to actually SEE this stuff?" Sadly, outside of our club there are very few places in the local area that have anything to do with anime. However, there is one video store in the area that rents many commercially-available anime shows to the public. *THAT'S RENTERTAINMENT*, located in the Johnstowne shopping center on the corner of Fifth and John (2 blocks from the Quad) has a large selection of Japanese animation in their "animated" section, including everything in the above list marked with **(R)**. Tapes cost \$1.00 or \$2.50 per night, depending on length, and you'll need to have two photo-IDs with you the first time you rent anything. This is an excellent place to go for people who are new to anime and want to see some shows on their own.

Another source of anime information for more dedicated fans is the **Internet**, a world-wide network of electronic bulletin boards and newsgroups where people can discuss like interests with people all over the world. To get on the Internet a person must first get an account on one of the University's mainframe computers. If you are new student in one of the engineering schools then you have already been given an account, which will be mailed to you within the first month of school. If you are not an engineering student (or not even a student at the University) then you must go to room 1420 in the Digital Computer Lab on the corner of Springfield and Mathews to request an account. Accounts are free for University students, but non-University residents are required to pay a subscription fee for an account.

Once you have an account, you will be given instructions on how to send and receive electronic mail (e-mail) and, more importantly, how to access the various newsgroups. There are two major newsgroups for discussing anime and anime-related topics; **REC.ARTS.ANIME** and **REC.ARTS.MANGA**. ("Manga" is the term for Japanese comic books, which often become the basis for many anime series.) Your introductory packet of instructions will contain information on how to access and read these newsgroups. The Computing and Communications Services Office also offer a series of *FREE* courses on how to use the Internet. Ask for a catalog of courses in 1420 Digital Computer Lab (where you get your accounts).

Of course, the best way to learn is always to ask questions. All the club officers are knowledgeable enough to help you, or at least point you in the right direction. Feel free to get in touch with us after the meetings if you have problems or just want to discuss anime for a while. There's a lot of stuff out there to experience and enjoy, and these resources are only the start. Have fun!

# MOBILE POLICE ***PATLABOR***

General Overview by Dave Fleming



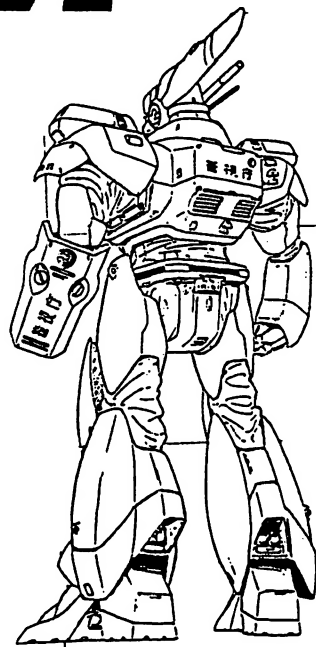
*"With the rapidly accelerating development of hyper-technology, humanoid-type machines called 'labors' are being used in every field of industry. However, this created the new social menace of 'labor' crime.*

*In order to curb the rise of such crimes, the Metropolitan Police Department has established a special department:*

*The Special Vehicle, Section No. 2.*

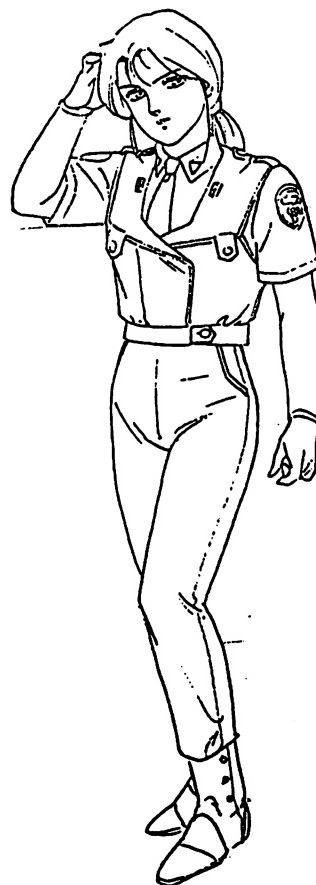
*It consists of a company of 'patrol' labors - 'patlabor' for short."*

• (from "The Making of Patlabor: the Movie")



The Patlabor OVA (Original Video Animation) series originally began as a parody of the "giant-robot" anime genre, but it quickly gained fans in the model market due to its technical designs. Soon afterwards, a comic version began serialization in Shonen Sunday Magazine, and fifteen compilation volumes have been released so far. At about the same time in 1989, the series moved into the television market. Soon after the premiere, a motion picture was released. The television series ended after 47 episodes, and a new series of sixteen Ovas has been released. Oddly enough, these four versions of Patlabor aren't quite the same: the original television series and the manga follow similar timelines (with the exception of the absence of a major television character in the manga series), but the video series and the movie follow a slightly different sequence of events. What follows is a description of the background of the various series.

The year is 1999, and an earthquake-prone Tokyo has begun two projects to deal with their land shortage problems for the foreseeable future. The first is Project Babylon; the aim of which is to build a series of artificial islands across the mouth of Tokyo Bay, connect them with dikes, and then drain off the area, creating vast tracts of usable land. Proceeding simultaneously is Geofront; an attempt to build a city 500 meters below Tokyo.



However, both projects have been beset with opposition since their inception. Environmentalist groups and the Tokyo fishing industry have been vehemently protesting Project Babylon, and Geofront has had some rather unique problems with a group of Shinto priests, the events of which are dealt with in the television series.

Using normal construction machinery, these projects would have been nearly impossible, but with labors – advanced multi-function construction robots – a mere ten years would be necessary for their completion. In the Patlabor world, the basic research for labor technology had been completed by the end of the 1980s, but no major advances in the field had occurred until the huge demand for Project Babylon gave the heavy industry field incentive to channel more funds into research and development, creating rapid advances.

Unfortunately, as is usually the case-with such a rapid technological development, society didn't keep pace. Labor-related crimes soon became commonplace: drunken driving, robbery, and terrorism. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police

Department created a new branch of the police force to deal with them: the Special Vehicle section  
II – the S.V. II.

The S.V. II is itself divided into two groups, the First and Second Units, headed by Assistant Inspectors Shinobu Nagumo and Kiichi Gotoh, respectively. The sections' headquarters (both the First and Second Units are housed in the same building) is a renovated warehouse that had been abandoned a few years earlier, which is itself located in the middle of what is known as "The Reclaimed Lands" – an as-yet uninhabited area alongside Tokyo Bay that had been drained off in a process similar to that which is being used in Project Babylon (but on a much smaller scale). Since the building is so far away from "civilization," the work crews try to remain as self-sufficient as possible by fishing (usually by trolling in their ferry boat), raising chickens, and growing their own crops.



The labors of the title, like most animated "giant robots," are controlled via hand and foot controls, as well as an advanced computer system. However, a labor's operating system, upon delivery from the manufacturer, contains only basic movement patterns. As it is used, however, the labor will pick up a computerized set of reflexes from its operator; in short, the more a labor is used, the less work its pilot has to do. The labor's operating system – its OS – stores information dealing with the pilot's habits on its start-up disk (a writable CD-rom). In time, the labor will perform these maneuvers with only a few basic control moves, leaving the pilot free to worry about other matters.

This means, of course, that as a labor is used more and more often, and the new movement patterns are stored, that the machines effectively become personalized; ie. the manipulators of one labor may be dexterous, while another may be highly effective in a combat situation, depending on the specialty of the operator. This also means that if an operator were to put his labor's start-up disk into another labor, that machine will behave exactly like the operator's old machine.

This opens up interesting possibilities in the corporate espionage field, as well. Imagine a labor manufacturer that manages to steal or copy the start-up disk from a fully-imprinted labor. This company could ship its labors from the factory with over a year's worth of experience in the OS... Actually, this sort of thing is tried several times, with varying degrees of success, in the television series, forming the basis of many a storyline.

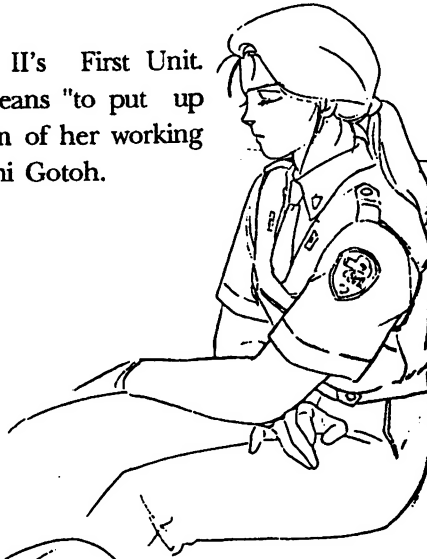
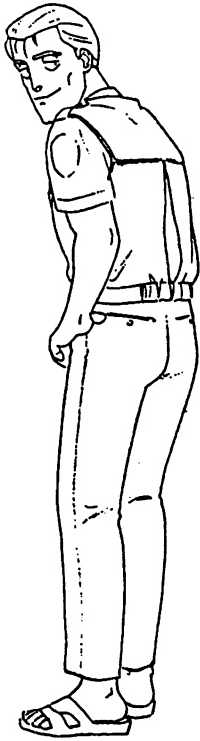
To deal with labor crimes, the Metro Police Department began taking bids for police-use labor models, which led to the development of the Shinohara Heavy Industries A.V. (Advanced Vehicle) labor series.



## Characters

### **Shinobu Nagumo:**

Beleagured commander of the S.V. II's First Unit. One translation of her first name means "to put up with," which is a pretty fair description of her working relationship with her colleague, Kiichi Gotoh.



### **Kiichi Gotoh:**

Known to the top brass in the police department as "The Razor" for his mind, but has picked up the nickname "Capt. Valium" in American fan groups for his eyes. Like many a general who was sent off to the frontier because he knew too much, Gotoh was assigned to command the black-sheep Second Unit to keep him out of the public eye, but his command has caused more than its share of P.R. fiascos. Also, stage hypnotists would envy this guy's manipulative abilities...



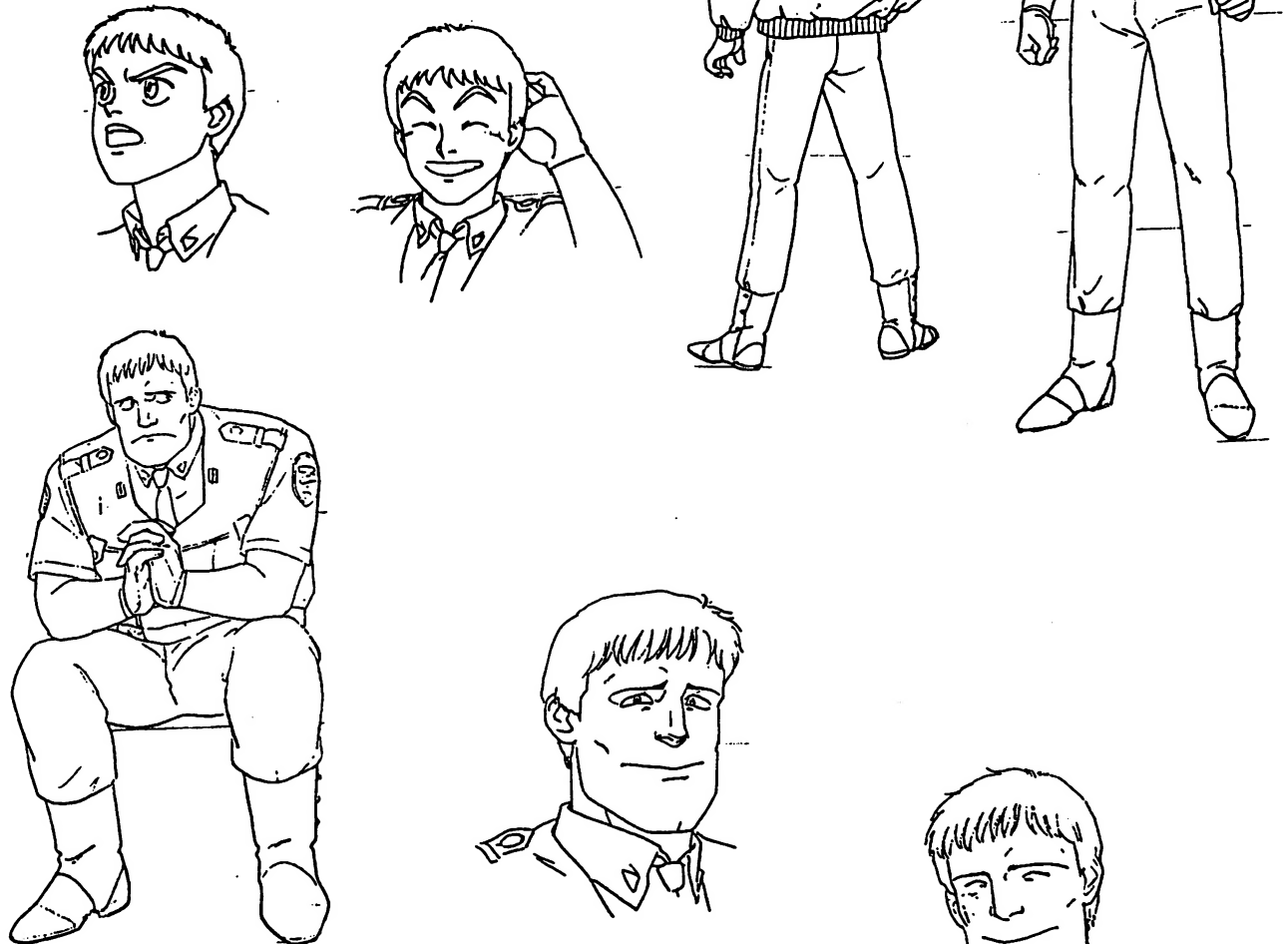
### **Noa Izumi:**

Pilot of Unit 1, which she has named - like all her pets - "Alphonse." Daughter of a Hokkaidou liquor-store owner, she has managed to drink many an S.V. II member under the table.



### ***Asuma Shinohara:***

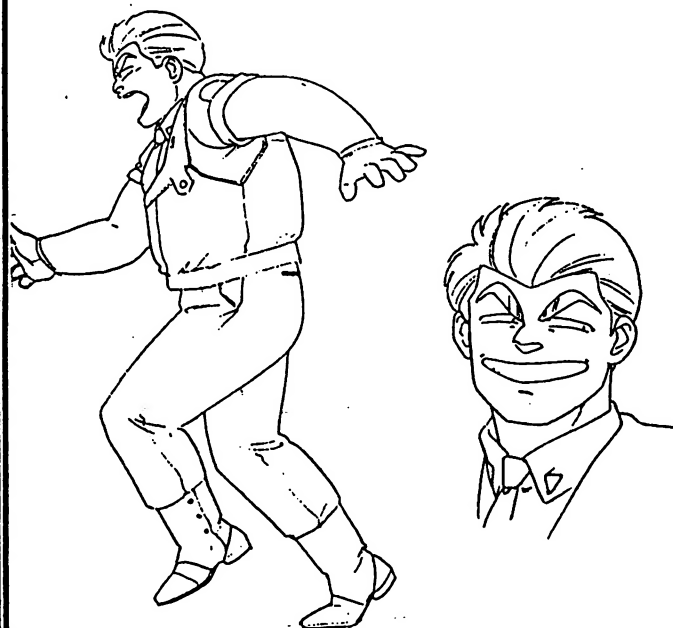
"Backup" of Unit 1, he follows Noa's labor in a small command car, relaying tactical information. He is the son of the president of Shinohara Heavy Industries, manufacturer of the Metro Police Department's labor units. He claims to have been suckered into joining the S.V. II by his father, with whom he is not on the best of terms, to put it mildly.



### ***Hiromi Yamazaki:***

The "gentle-giant" of the squad, he joined the force hoping that the manliness of it all would offset the effeminacy of his first name. Hiromi is Unit 1's carrier driver, a large truck used to transport labors to crime scenes in order to conserve battery power (labor batteries operate on the same principles as those in portable CD players, if you get my meaning). He also looks after the S.V. II's chicken and tomato population.





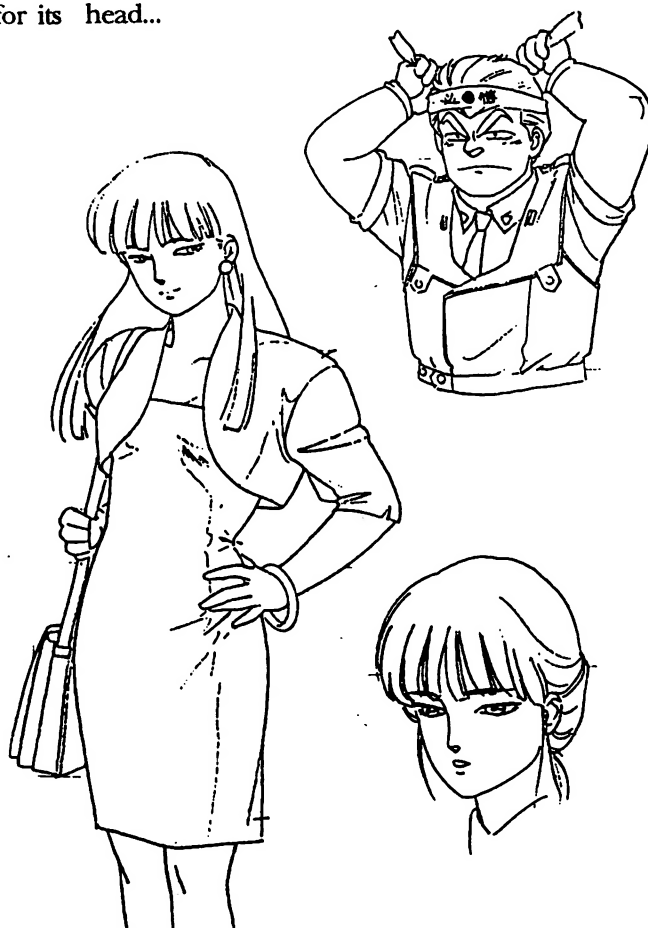
### ***Kanuka Clancy:***

Third generation Japanese who was raised by her grandmother in Hawaii, but later moved to New York and joined the police force. She was ostensibly sent to Japan to observe the operations of the S.V. II for a six-month period so that she could write a proposal for the formation of a labor unit in the United States, but rumor has it that the real reason she was sent was that her work mentality was pretty much identical to Ohta's. She was assigned to act as Backup for Unit 2 even though she outranks Ohta (and is a better pilot) because she would not be in Japan long enough to fully imprint a labor.



### ***Isao Ohta:***

Known to U.S. fans as "Tackleberry," Ohta eventually becomes the poster boy for a new type of insurance against labor-inflicted damage. Pilot of Unit 2, he has gotten his labor damaged so frequently that the mechanics at the S.V. II have run out of spare parts for its head...



### ***Mikiyasu Shinshi:***

An ex-corporate man who joined the police force for the romance and excitement. He often gets too much of the latter (or is the cause of it), and, as such, is known to U.S. fans as "Mr. Maalox." Like many anime characters who wear glasses, Shinshi is also prone to fits of psychosis when angry; even Ohta has learned to back off during one of these episodes. He is the only married man in the S.V. II, and, stationed in the boonies as he is, he often goes for long stretches without seeing his wife, Tamiko. While Kanuka was stationed in Japan, he acted as carrier driver for Unit 2, but, after her departure, he had to fill in as Ohta's Backup (a clash in styles, to say the least). He is eventually re-assigned as carrier driver when a replacement for Kanuka is assigned to the S.V. II.

### ***Kumagami Takeo:***

Kanuka's replacement after she returns to New York. Kumagami is a consummate professional, but she and Kanuka keep trying to one-up each other whenever they cross paths.

### ***Maintenance Crew:***

Led by Seitarou Sakaki (known as the "Vehicle God"), and his assistant, Shigeo Shiba, an irked scientist who enjoys building things such as labor-sized, pump-action shotguns in his free time...

### ***Some of the Bad Guys***

#### ***Utsumi:***

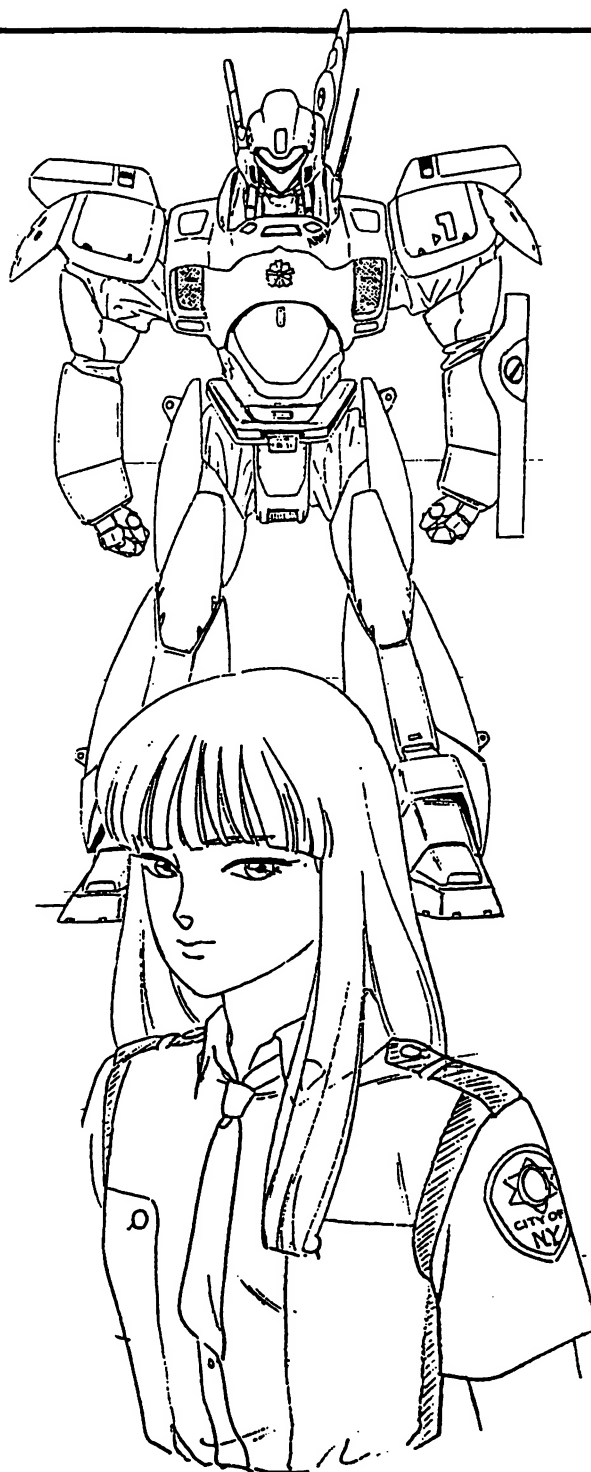
Responsible for most of the sneakier enterprises undertaken by Schaft Enterprises, a company with a creative R&D department (remember the bit about the startup disks?) and a casual attitude towards international law. Utsumi, just like Gotoh, puts up a front to put people off their guard, but, unlike Gotoh, he doesn't choose to act like the living dead. To most fans, Utsumi is known as "Laughing Boy." He is one of the coolest anime villains to come along in some time.

#### ***Kurosaki:***

Utsumi's right-hand man, but he's more capable than the average flunky.

### ***The Earth Defense Force:***

A slightly misguided group of eco-terrorists opposed to Project Babylon. They are responsible for most of the bombing incidents which take place during the series.



And this concludes a somewhat concise, believe it or not, overview of the contents of the Patlabor series, one of the most complex stories to come out of Japan in several years. For the casual viewer, it has great art and character designs; for the mecha junkie, it has great technical designs and action scenes; and, for the viewer who is after great storylines and characters, it's got plenty of those, too. In short, Patlabor is a TV show/ comic/ movie/ video with a little something for everyone.

3X3 Eyes is a 4 part OVA series. This series displays a certain uniqueness which can be attributed to its effective combination of the elements of horror, occultism, and humor. The manga from which it was based on draws heavily for Hindi and Buddhism folklore to provide a refreshing change from the standard horror genre. Although the scope of the animated version is somewhat diluted compared to the manga, it can still be considered exceptional. The following is a brief into to the series.

Info from Patrick Yip, Hiroshi Haga, Tonghyun Kim, Dave Mou, Dan Su, & Tsao Sheng-Te

## Sanjiyan Unkara

### (Three Eyes/Triclops)

The Sanjiyans are beautiful, extremely long-lived creatures who are capable of consuming one soul and merging it with their own. (A human's soul looks like a light, gelatinous ~10cm radius ball.)

Apparently, the Sanjiyans are a degenerate race; the older ones have become decadent and callous, while the younger, more emotional ones will develop split personalities (eg. the dual nature of Pai/Sanjiyan). Some Sanjiyans believed that this mental death will be their ultimate end, and volunteered themselves to be turned into human beings.

### Pai Parvati IV

The Sanjiyan to who wound up coming to Japan seeking to be humanified. Pai is the Sanjiyan's cheery, caring personality; Parvati IV is the Sanjiyan's arrogant, ruthless personality. They are different aspects of the same being, and aware of each other. (Pai attempts to "talk" to the Sanjiyan in vols. 2 and 5.) Parvati IV has to "sleep" for a long time after performing powerful spells.

In Hindu legend, Parvati is the wife of Shiva, renowned for her charming & gentle nature. (It seems that this became fixed in Hindu legend early in the first millenium AD... but the vol.4 scene where Pai confronts Shiva is set in 1678.)



Wu

(Nothingness/Void/Lights are on, but nobody's home)

[also: Uu, Mu]

When a Sanjiyan consumes a soul, the "W" mark appears on the victim's forehead. The "Wu" is a near-indestructible, soulless being who will only die when the Sanjiyan does. The status of "Wu" can be revoked or changed via extremely powerful magics, like the humanification process.

### Yakumo Fujii

[lit. "eight clouds"] Pai's "Wu".

His father was an archaeology professor who went to Tibet to study the legend of Sanjiyan, but died a natural death after he met Pai (but before he could get out of Yunnan [a province of China near Tibet]). Yakumo carries his father's legacy: the promise to make Pai human.

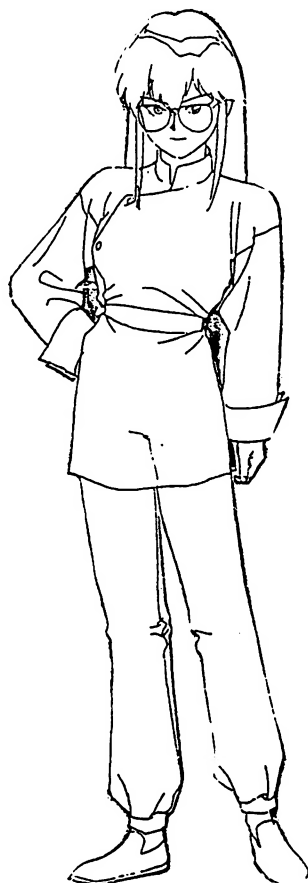
At the start of the story he is 17, but later had to quit high school due to the pressure of being an immortal. ^^ He works part-time in Culture Shock, a gay bar in Shinjuku (he has no homosexual inclination though). Later, he worked as an employee of Yougekisha, and attended culinary school. Yakumo's eyes are "as narrow as string!", but they occasionally open.

Sanjiyan is far from impressed with Yakumo's performance as a "Wu", going as far as calling forth Kaiyanwang to have him sacked (vol.10).



3X3 EYES





**Natsuko**

Yakumo's friend from junior high. Years later, she encountered Yakumo again, while working as a highschool teacher.

**Kaiyanwang**

**(Demon-Eye King) Shiva I [also: Siva]**

Kaiyanwang is the ruler of the Sanjiyans. It took the lives of every Sanjiyan (except Pai) to banish Shiva, the last Kaiyanwang, to another dimension. Pai was once Shiva's fiancée. In history according to Pai's consciousness (vol.10-11), Shiva was corrupted/empowered when the humanification process went awry. At that time, Shiva was not yet Kaiyanwang -- the title was held by a deformed four-armed Sanjiyan, who committed suicide after he was accidentally turned into a human.

(In Hindu mythology, Shiva's third eye is partly Parvati's fault. According to legend, when Shiva's third eye opens, it will burn with light as bright as the sun.)

**Steve Long**

Mei Shin's bespectacled, stubble-covered elder brother. An exorcist by trade, he sometimes wears Taoist robes, and is occasionally referred to as Long Dao-Shi (Taoist monk Long). Also gives Yakumo "some not-so-useful romantic advice".

**Ningen no Zou**

**(Statue of Humanity)**

The statue with the power to make Sanjiyans into human beings. The humanification process requires three Sanjiyans: two are stripped of their special powers, which are simultaneously transferred to the third Sanjiyan.

**"Mama"**

The boss of Culture Shock. Mama's gender isn't quite clear; sounds masculine in the anime, referred to as "kimi" in the manga.

**Yougekisha**

**(Monster Buster Inc.)**

A Hongkong publishing/exorcism company which eventually includes:

**Ling-Ling Li**

(lit. "chiming-bell" Li) [also: Ling Ling Lee]  
Assistant editor.

**Mei Shin Long**

(lit. "beautiful star dragon")  
One year younger than Yakumo (?). An adept martial artist who later went to university in England.



**Shunkai**

**(Swift demon)**

aka. Song Lii Wong (lit. "Song beautiful yellow") [also: SL Huang, SL Hwang]  
Shunkai is her true (monster) name. The real Mrs. Wong died some years ago, and Shunkai assumed her identity, living the life of a successful businesswoman in Hongkong's peak district, aided by several loyal followers. In demon form, she has talons, a tail and a single horn, and her breath can turn living flesh to stone.

Shunkai's ambition is to exploit the Sanjiyan's power for her own ends. Acting on Sanjiyan's dissatisfaction with Yakumo, she eventually persuaded her to try to become the next Kaiyanwang.

**Benares**

Shiva's powerful "Wu", at least 320 years old, who might once have been human. He is an arch-sorcerer who has developed most of the magic used by Yakumo & others. (Benares is the name of a town known for intense Shiva worship, located south of Nepal on the River Ganges, in India.)

**"eye-blob monster" Chui Dao-Shi**

**(Taoist monk Chui)**

Shunkai's henchman, able to control many people simultaneously. He attempted to blackmail Sanjiyan into granting him "Wu" status when he repeatedly possessed Yakumo's friend, Natsuko. Later, he assumed the guise of Chui Dao-Shi, as part of Shunkai's final scheme to control the Sanjiyan.

**Ryouko**

**(worm dragon?)**

A monster who kidnaps Steve Long and promises to exchange him for the missing fragment of the Ningen no Zou, believing that Kaiyanwang will grant immortality to anyone who delivers it intact.

